



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TAMI ZAWISTOWSKI
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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Friday, March 4, 2016 Public Hearing Testimony Appropriations Committee

Dear Senator Beth Bye, Senator Rob Kane, Representative Toni Walker, Representative Melissa Ziobron, and members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Tami Zawistowski and I represent the 61st District which includes Suffield, East Granby, and Windsor. I'd like to thank the Committee for hearing the bill proposal I submitted, and for the opportunity to offer testimony on what is now S.B. 269.

SB 269: An Act Requiring the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to Study the Impact of Implementing a Forty-Hour Work Week for State Employees

Last year, I was contacted by two constituents who are also state employees. They are both employed in functions involving Information Technology (IT) and are in a bargaining unit that has a 35 hour work week.

The reason they contacted me was because they felt that a 40 hour work week would be more beneficial to both employees and to the state. They were specifically concerned with the number of consultants who were brought in to perform IT services, and also felt that there were simply "not enough hours in the day" for their group to perform its duties in a fully efficient manner. They emphasized that if hours were increased from 35 to 40, there would be increased productivity and less dependency on outside consultants. I also suspect that there may be additional savings through the reduction of overtime.

I did request the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) to take a look at the proposal last year, and they were able to measure increased costs, but could not consider the potential benefits. I believe that this proposal – one brought to us by some long-time state employees – is worth further evaluation.

SB 269 would require the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to study the impact of implementing a forty-hour work week for all state employees. Currently, there is much variability in the number of hours worked per week by various state employees. This can range from 35 hours, to the Department of Corrections' set 36.25 hours, or to the more standard 40 hours per week.

The purpose of this study will be to provide sufficient information to evaluate whether an increase in hours worked will result in efficiencies, reduction of overtime and/or decreased use of consultants. This analysis by OPM will provide the data necessary to make informed decisions during both the collective bargaining process and in budget deliberations.

I urge you to support SB 269 along with me and others who see the importance of this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tami Zawistowski', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Representative Tami Zawistowski
61st District – Suffield, East Granby, Windsor